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ABSTRACT

A virtual viewpoint image generation method for generating a virtual viewpoint image that is an image of an object viewed from a virtual viewpoint based on plural images of the object taken by plural cameras is provided. In the virtual viewpoint image generation method, projection planes having a multi-layered structure are set, each corresponding point, on the images of the object, corresponding to a projection point of a projection plane is obtained, color information of each projection point is determined based on color information of corresponding points, for each of the projection points overlapping when viewed from a reference viewpoint in a space, a degree of probability that the object exists at a distance corresponding to a position of the projection point is determined based on a degree of correlation of the corresponding points, mixing processing is performed on color information of reference points overlapping when viewed from the virtual viewpoint according to the degree of probability of existence of the object so as to determine color information of each pixel of the virtual viewpoint image.